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Beloved’s Strive for Attention

Throughout the book *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, we see how much Beloved strives for her mother’s love. She still has a child’s mindset since she isn’t able to face the fact that she is her own independent person and she doesn’t need to cling herself to people in order to be accepted. Beloved longs for attention and she is willing to do almost anything for it.

First of all, a major scene that shows Beloved’s jealousy is when Sethe is in the clearing trying to figure out if she wants to be with Paul D. Sethe makes it clear that “… she wanted Paul D… More than commemorating Halle, that she what she had come to the clearing to figure out, and now it was figured” (Morrison 116). All of a sudden when Sethe is back there she starts to feel like she’s being choked and even Denver thinks Beloved did it. This makes perfect sense because Beloved doesn’t like the fact that her mother is showing him more attention than she does her. You can tell how jealous she is when her mother is hanging around Paul D. The book states how “… even the daylight time that Beloved had counted on, was being reduced, divided by Sethe’s willingness to pay attention to other things. Him mostly” (Morrison 118). This shows how Beloved longs for her mother’s attention and she can’t stand having to share her mother with anybody else.

Beloved’s need for attention can also relate to the fact that she is childish. She still possesses a little kids mind even though she is eighteen. We can see this in how she always wants someone to tell her a story. Stories are usually used to entertain children but Beloved takes great interest in them. Denver even “…noticed how greedy she was to hear Sethe talk” (Morrison 75). The word greedy is important because it illustrates how Beloved has an intense and selfish desire for Sethe to talk to her. Beloved can’t go long without Sethe acknowledging her presence.

Another way we can see how Beloved has a child’s mindset is how she longs to be near Sethe all the time. Beloved goes and meets Sethe after work every day. In fact, the book mentions four months straight (Morrison 153) and Denver describes how “When her mother is anywhere around, Beloved has eyes only for Sethe” (Morrison 143). Beloved’s tendency to try to be near her mother as much as she can reflects back on how children are so dependent on their parents and how they long to be the center of their parents world. Beloved is constantly fighting for her mom’s attention and the best way to do this is to persistently be in her mother’s presence.

Since Beloved realizes that Sethe is unwilling to give her all the attention that she needs, she decides to find it someone else. The person she decides to turn to is Paul D. She comes up to him and begs him to touch her on the inside part and call her name (Morrison 137). Beloved doesn’t like Paul D but at the same time she is dying to feel loved and appreciated. She needs attention and that’s why she goes to such extremes to get it.

In Conclusion, Beloved is constantly trying to cling to her mother in an attempt to receive all of her attention. She gets jealous when her mother gives any sort of recognition to Paul D. Beloved had a child’s mind and she thinks that she is entitled to get whatever she wants. That’s why she is always asking to hear one of Sethe’s stories. She just needs someone to pay attention to her and when she isn’t completely satisfied, she uses Paul D in order to give her the attention she is lacking.